

The Times

(MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY)

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WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 22

The Speaker and His Party.

The recalcitrant gentleman is about again who objects very strongly to Speaker Reed's high-handed behavior in the absolute management of the House. He wishes that Mr. McKinley or Mr. Hanna or somebody else of sufficient power had only suggested that he and they should go into a coalition together to defeat Mr. Reed's aspirations for the Speakership. Now the recalcitrant member of the House wonders why Mr. Reed frowns upon any suggestion that the Republican Representatives have a caucus to decide what they shall do. Naturally the Speaker regards such a proposition as absurd. He himself will decide what the House will do.

But there is unquestionably an influence to which the Speaker is amenable. He has called upon the President, and it is not denied that the President and Mr. Hanna are good enough friends. Of course, Mr. Dingley does not represent, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the Speaker of the House alone. He represents the Administration, and he is working for it with an industry, if not a fidelity, that will cause his particular friends to smile with a gleam that is truly ghastly. It is even believed that the Speaker is throwing aside for the moment all other business. Surely he is working as he never worked before to push the Dingley bill along, whether he deems it a good thing or not.

The Speaker will not be without his recompense. His friend Milliken will doubtless be appointed collector of customs at Portland, and the report is also credible that the delegates to the St. Louis convention, who were pugnacious for Reed and true to him, will be well taken care of.

Rules for Officers.

We applaud the efforts of Secretary Porter to shut off the White House spin-dribbler, and we hope that Mr. Porter's cold-blooded announcement that speeches which officers make for themselves, or induce others to make for them, won't help them any, will have a salutary effect in all the departments and Government bureaus, where, of course, the office-seeking spin-dribbler holds forth with all of his noise and in some of his glory.

We have always believed that it is capable of mathematical proof that three-quarters of the persons who seek anything, whether in politics or in business, actually talk themselves out of what they want by talking too much or by talking badly. Let the officers remember in the first place that it is they, and not the appointing power, who are asking the favors. Let them be polite and brief, then, so as not to annoy the appointing power. Let them state their business completely and then go. To state it completely does not mean that they must state it at length. Let them say just enough.

These few simple rules also apply to any every-day business proposition. Every man is hard at work, or ought to be, and his mind is alert and inquisitive. Sometimes he knows before you enter just what you are after. Do not worry him, then, with details that are worse than unimportant. State your business and go. If you propose something that will be advantageous to him, you may be sure he will not forget it. The same is true of the President or the cabinet officer. They are going to prefer you not because you yourself want something very badly, but because it is advantageous in some way that they should want you.

The Illness of the Kaiser.

To put the matter in its most charitable light, it is impossible to read the reports that from time to time, have come from Berlin in regard to the health of the German Emperor, and avoid the conclusion that his majesty is at times, at least, mentally irresponsible. Strange as some of his actions have appeared in connection with matters of state policy, as, for example, his vindictive treatment of his sister, the wife of Crown Prince Constantine, they might be considered as having reason, if not excuse, in political considerations. But when the imperial master of a great military power descends to such amusements as pinching the noses of his generals and courtiers, and tripping them up with his sword, there surely is reason for considering such conduct as eccentricity verging on madness.

There is a terrible affliction hereditary in the reigning branch of the Hohenzollern family, which, report has it, was brought to it by the Empress Augusta, who inherited it from the Emperor Paul, of Russia. It attacked the throat of the Kaiser's father, Frederick, and killed him. It is said to survive in the present Emperor, in the painful disease of the ear and head, from which he has suffered for years. European diplomatic gossip describes him as practically insane at times. If that be true, his reign must soon come to an end. The family institutions and the imperial constitution provide occupancy of the throne by a Hohenzollern suffering from an incurable disease. The late Emperor came very near the point of losing his succession on that account. Only the strenuous exertion of diplomatic pressure by England, and the favorable report of an eminent London specialist, made it possible for him to secure his reign of a few weeks, and thus give his devoted wife the title and prestige

of an empress. And at that time it was widely charged that his son, now Kaiser Wilhelm, was conspiring actively with Prince Bismarck to have him passed over, and himself declared successor of the old Emperor Wilhelm I.

There is too much reason for suspecting that the story was true, and that it sadly embittered the last days of the excellent Frederick. Let us be merciful and attribute such unflinching conduct to the unmanageable workings of a mind already diseased. The end of it all may come fast enough for him. The kings and princes of the German states have had their patience sorely tried already; they will not stand much more, and it need not surprise anyone to hear within the next few weeks or months that a regency has been declared under Prince Henry, with a constitutional council representing the minor sovereigns. A movement like that might lead to better things for Germany in the way of a pacific foreign policy, and a reduced tendency to strain the constitution in the direction of personal government.

Mr. Hanna's Chance.

The Times has given itself the pleasure several times of late of patting the Hon. Mark Hanna approvingly on the shoulder. We have unadvisedly pleased him to his sorrow, and also to his sang-froid, and he has repeatedly urged upon him the propriety of taking the Senate in hand and causing it to do something. We repeat now our former statement that the Senate was never more in need of a leader than now. It has its shining lights, of course, the peppy Chandler, the statesman-like Allison, the peppy Hoar, but it has not a hustling gentleman who hovers about the area ways and the cloak rooms making sure that the House is pushed in favor of the Speaker before the Speaker speaks.

We call attention to the fact that Mr. Hanna's satisfaction, if he were to succeed in organizing the Republicans in the Senate, could never be so great as now. There are now Republican Senators to be won. Will he eat them? There is a tariff bill coming over from the House. His administration bill. Will Mr. Hanna be able to drag it out of the Senate in such condition that Mr. Dingley will recognize it? Mr. Hanna, as well as Mr. McKinley, is a bimetalist at heart. Will the Republican chairman force the requisite number of foreign powers by the intervention of the Senate, to recognize the advantages of bimetalism to this country? We pause, as we have been pausing a long time, for a reply.

Flood and Famine.

As predicted by this journal, the floods in the Western and Southern regions subject to overflow by the great rivers have increased in seriousness, and today seem to attain the proportions of a national calamity. The Arkansas levees have begun to break, and a large area of country already is under water. With still a vast volume of flood coming down from the far North, it is impossible to say whether these breaks may prove sufficient materially to relieve pressure upon the levees lower down the Mississippi, but there is reason to fear they will not, and that the worst phase of the situation has not been reached. We may expect to hear of bad things yet from Memphis to the Port Eads, including danger, if not damage, to New Orleans.

The conditions are serious enough to have occasioned calls for aid from the citizens of several inundated places, and the necessity for organized assistance, for money and relief stores, will doubtless develop soon over a wide expanse of territory. The year 1897, which was to have been a smiling period of piping peace and coddling comfort, under arbitration and the tariff, is evolving war, famine, pestilence, floods, agitations, distresses and miseries, and one would imagine that somebody had bought Pandora's box at an unclaimed baggage sale, and dumped its contents on a helpless world all at once.

A Championship Disagreement.

There are champions and ex-champions in walks of life quite outside of the field ring. Some of their methods are of the sort in vogue among professors of the martial art, but these are of the vocal rather than of the physical kind.

For many long years Dr. Hamilton was surgeon general of the Marine Hospital Service, with headquarters at Washington. Suddenly he departed the occidental fever and succeeded in having his friend Dr. Wyman put in his place, himself taking a subordinate position in Chicago. Now he wants Dr. Wyman's scalp, and is talking and pamphleteering against that worthy successor.

This family misunderstanding is to be deplored, especially at a time when, on account of devastation by floods in the West and South, the best and most harmonious work of the whole service might be of importance. But if it is to be continued, possibly to public detriment and certainly to public annoyance, people will again become curious as to the real reasons and motives Dr. Hamilton had at the beginning for giving up so good a thing and seeking the comparatively reclusive retirement of the Windy City.

Possibly time, the destroying angel or the emigration instinct may have removed some or all of the causes, and now he might like to have his old job; but, all things considered, these individuals were among officials, particularly between such as have formerly together nestled in a syndicated attitude under the wing of friendship, are not often productive of much except scandal of one sort or another.

Interior Blamefulness.

We trust there may be nothing in the report that Secretary Bliss has determined, in a Christian spirit of resignation, to leave the Cabinet just early in the grand era of trust prosperity said to be about to break over the country. Such action, after only a few days of office, would be nearly, if not quite, unprecedented. In the Cabinet just before this one, ministers who considered themselves just as great and dignified as Mr. Bliss, did not resign. Even after being treated to Executive personal abuse, couched in the holiest imagery of the Buffalo penstock club, and having had palace doors slammed in their faces. It is true, in time, some of them did re-

tire, but not in consequence of little things like that, and it is to be hoped, with the examples before him, that Mr. Bliss will think twice before returning to his constituents in Wall Street with a pout upon his expressive countenance.

As the demagog of those constituents very justly has observed: "Public office is a public trust." None of the advantages of a trust, whether public or private—and there is great community of interest between the two varieties at present—should lightly be surrendered. Mr. Bliss should reflect that his personal feelings ought always to be sacrificed to considerations connected with his trust.

The Blockade of Crete.

The blockade of Crete has commenced with many appropriate incidents. The original mission of the sextette concert warships was to protect the Christians. A large body of these is cut off from food or other supplies on the peninsula of Akrotiri by the Turks on one side and the admirals on the other. The latter refuse to allow the landing of anything to eat. This is the European notion of protection to Christians incident to preserving the "integrity of the Ottoman empire."

But it seems that England has been forced to kick over the concert traces, in the matter of blockading the Grecian coasts, and the other powers hardly will undertake it without her co-operation. Here is the first definite victory of public opinion in Great Britain, and a most encouraging sign. Evidently it has caused a marked shortening of continental horns and now we begin to hear of the probable withdrawal of all the Turkish troops from Crete and the appointment of Prince George as governor. In that program, presumed to be pressed by Lord Salisbury, there really would be a "modus vivendi" that might avert war. But nobody can tell how the kaleidoscope may turn within a few hours.

The Spanish butcher, Weyler, is said to be suffering from an ulcerated throat and dysentery. His physicians will not allow him to take the field. Friends of liberty and humanity will humbly hope for the worst.

If Secretary Sherman really believes in the accuracy of the Spanish government that the Ruiz investigation will be full and fair, his credibility is worthy of a place in the National Museum after he gets through with it.

A good conscience is better protection in the White House than an army of Pinkertons without one.

There are some excellent little jobs in the Indian appropriation bill. It is not remarkable, therefore, that debate upon it was short.

If the Democratic Senators propose complete complicity in the matter of the tariff, what do they expect to gain by holding out on Appropriation Committee seats. In short, is there to be a fight or only a cake walk?

In case Mr. Brady could get Prof. Corbett to look at those kinesiograph pictures for a little while, it is probable that the latter would let his share go for a good deal less than \$100,000.

Apparently credible reports have been received of the death of President Cisneros, of the Cuban republic. He was a pure patriot, an accomplished and distinguished man and statesman, who surrendered wealth, luxury and a high title of nobility to devote himself to the cause of his people. Before the war President Cisneros was known as the Marquis of Santa Lucia.

The Senate will devote most of its leisure this week to consideration of the proposed entangling arbitration alliance with Great Britain; and probably Richard Olney is chuckling to think that "the evil that men do lives after them."

Mr. W. E. Curtis, formerly chief of the Bureau of American Republics, and a good Republican, considers that the reciprocity pretensions of the Dingley bill are humbug. They are not more so than the remaining features.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Col. John Hay can talk five languages; but can he climb a step-ladder?

"Mr. Witterly says he always stood at the head of his class."

"I think he must have had a private tutor."

Our situation would indeed be grave, if the coffin trust should make dying too expensive.

The peace of Europe is in the hands of the Kaiser, and Europe seems to be afraid that he will drop it.

He was a young man in evening dress, and dejection was plainly written upon his countenance.

"What's the matter, De Ryter, old boy?" queried a sympathetic friend.

"The matter is," De Ryter heaved a heavy sigh, "that when I was young and callow-brained I wrote verses. I never could get them to make a hit; they were very seldom printed, though I nearly broke my heart that they weren't. Then I got cynical, and went into the diplomatic service, and now, when I have received the consulship to one of the most important of the four quarters of the globe, those damned nursery songs come up to plague me, and they are being reprinted from one end of the country to the other."

What's in a name? Sometimes there's a diplomatic appointment in it, if it begins with William McK.

Hon. Kl. Guder and Hon. Squinch Card are doing right to come out of obscurity where their names were not thoroughly appreciated.

Theis Barnstomer—I wish some ghost would come from the dead to tell me what would make this play go.

Hanuel Cabbagehead—Well, unless the ghost does walk the play will go off the boards.

"This newspaper statement won't hurt you," said his friend, confidentially. "Just wait till I get after them. I'll make 'em retract."

"Yes," said the local politician, sadly, "but they scarebared the statement, and they'll set the retraction in newspaper."

The Best Cure.

Mr. Henpeck—Doctor, my wife tells me you have advised her to go to the seaside for two months.

Physician—Yes.

Mr. Henpeck—Do you think she needs rest?

Physician—No; but you do.—Tid-Bita.

MR. DINGLEY ON HIS BILL

Continued from First Page.

wool which they raised in 1896, in excess of what they raised in 1897, as well as new, 10 cents per pound, a price, involving a loss to them of nearly \$30,000,000 per annum already on this one farm product, and off manufacturers and their workmen lost a market not only for the goods which increased foreign imports had supplanted, but also a market for goods which the farmers and masses of the people were able to purchase in 1893, but which they could not buy in 1896, because of a loss of employment and purchasing power.

By this it has been demonstrated that by placing wool on the free list the injury of the farmer and manufacturer, we have not been thereby enabled to increase our exports of manufactures of wool (as was claimed) would be the case, and we have greatly increased the use of shoddy by diminishing the high standard of the masses and thus compelling them to seek the cheapest cloth.

It is claimed that this has reduced the cost of clothing to the people, the reply is obvious, that it has done so only in appearance because in point of fact the mass of the people have been made poorer by this action.

It is also claimed that this has given foreign manufacturers the making of 50 large a part of our goods, have found it harder to buy their clothing than they did before.

Profiting by this experience, the Ways and Means Committee, in framing the pending bill, have taken care to place the duty of 60 per cent on the tariff of 1890; and have also restored the same compensatory duties on wool and woolen goods.

It is in order to place the manufacturer of wool on the same basis as to his material as his foreign competitor was given by the latter act—as is always necessary in order to provide a market for our domestic wool.

To this has been added in a nearly specific form, duties practically equivalent to the tariff of 1890 and 1894, as a protection to the wool manufacturers.

This, it is believed, will greatly aid the wool-grower, stop the further deflection of the wool, and presently regain what he has lost in the past four years, and ultimately result in the home production of nearly all the clothing wool that we require.

It will also greatly encourage the wool manufacturing industries, which have suffered severely under the tariff of 1894. At the same time we will ultimately increase the revenue from duties on wool and woolens not less than \$25,000,000 per annum.

The duty on sugar has also been increased, both for purpose of revenue and to encourage the production of sugar in the United States, and thereby give to our farmers a new and much-needed crop. We now pay foreign countries about \$84,000,000 for imported sugar, notwithstanding the abnormally low price, and this sum will soon be increased to \$100,000,000.

The same will be the case with the duty on sugar beets and the production of beet sugar in California and Nebraska in the past five years, not to mention the progress in the production of cane sugar in Louisiana, has made the problem of producing our own sugar no longer doubtful.

The duty on raw sugar of the same polariscope test as refined sugar (100 degrees) one and three-fourths cents. To this is added five-eighths of one cent for such sugar above No. 16 Dutch standard in color (refined sugar), making the duty one cent and eighty-seven and a half hundredths of a cent for each additional degree. This would make the duty on raw sugar of the same polariscope test as refined sugar (100 degrees) one and three-fourths cents.

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Importers have united with manufacturers and administrators of the law in asking for this. Piece-goods in the silk schedule and some emporiums have for the first time been given exclusively specific rates—desiderata which have earnestly recommended by both Secretaries Manning and Fairchild several years ago. In many cases where exclusively ad valorem duties are impracticable because of the varied character of goods, compound duties have been devised which so minimize the ad valorem feature as to take away a large part of the inducement to undervalue.

While it is difficult to compare the rates of tariff almost entirely ad valorem with a bill whose rates are so largely specific as the pending measure, yet the fact that very few duties in this bill are higher than those of the act of 1890, and nearly all lower, and that two important schedules are for the most part the same as the duties of the present law, clearly show that the actual average rates of the proposed bill are lower than those of the tariff of 1893 and some higher than of the present tariff—nottwithstanding the average per centum ad valorem duty under the pending bill on the present reduced prices, will appear to be higher than the present law, and a little higher than those of the act of 1890.

Per centum averages are always misleading when estimated on changed basis. Thus a duty of 50 per cent imposed on an imported article valued at 50 cents abroad and 80 cents here, making 30 cents the difference of cost of production, becomes a duty of 60 per cent when the foreign and domestic cost are each reduced 10 cents, but the duty is still 30 cents.

Again different specific or compound duties imposed by lines of value always give a right opportunity for juggling with the percentage.

For example, if a duty of 75 cents is imposed on an article valued between \$1 and \$2, and 75 cents on the same kind of article valued above \$2, and so on for higher lines, then the uncanceled percentage manifestly shifting her eyes to the fact that the importer will adapt his goods so as to fall but slightly below the lines erected, proceeds to declare that a duty of over 70 per cent has been placed on an article valued at \$1.05, when as a matter of fact goods anywhere near \$1 will come under the 75 cents duty which will be valued at about \$2; so that in point of fact the actual duty is less than 40 per cent.

It is because of these facts that it has been found difficult to compare rates under two tariffs so different in character as equivalent ad valorem, so as to make the comparison acceptable or satisfactory.

The average ad valorem of dutiable schedules under the act of 1890, on the basis of imports of 1893, was 49.12 per cent, and with the lower prices of 1896, it would have been 53 per cent. But this was with sugar on the free list, and liquors 7 per cent less than in the proposed bill. If sugar and liquors had borne the same duties as under the act of 1890, and prices had been as low in 1893 as in 1896, the average duty on that act would have exceeded 60 per cent.

Under the act of 1894 the average duty in 1896 was 40 per cent, but this was with sugar at only 40 cents, and tobacco, liquors, furs and silks considerably less than under the act of 1890 or the proposed bill. If sugar and liquors were under the act of 1894, the average duty would be 47 per cent. The average duty under the proposed law, with the high duties on sugar and liquors, is estimated by the experts at 87 per cent.

Deduct sugar and the average duty would be 54 per cent; deduct sugar, tobacco and liquors and the average duty would be 49.85 per cent, and deduct sugar, tobacco, spirits, and wool and the average duty would be only 41 per cent.

The report of the Committee on Ways and Means has set forth the fact that the pending bill has not only rectified the provisions of the tariff of 1890, as to reciprocity, under which our trade was successfully enlarged, but has extended that policy. As the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hopkins), who has been specially devoted his attention to this subject, will hereafter explain in detail what is proposed, I will leave that interesting subject to him.

The inquiry naturally arises as to what will be the probable annual revenue derived from the proposed tariff revision in case it should become law, the only solid basis from which we can draw inferences is that supplied by the estimate of Mr. Evans, the statistician, who has made the comparative statement, that on the basis of the importations of the fiscal year 1896, the pending bill enacted into law would yield an increase of revenue of about \$113,000,000, the details of which are given in the report of the Committee of Ways and Means.

The committee estimate, after making liberal reductions, that for the first year, in case the bill should become a law by May next, it is believed the proposed bill would yield an increase of revenue of about \$113,000,000, and that for every week thereafter, in case its passage should be deferred, there would have to be a deduction of from one to two million dollars for wool, sugar and other articles on speculation to avoid the increased duties.

For the second year it is believed the proposed bill would yield \$100,000,000 of increased revenue. It must be obvious, from any point of view, that prompt action by the two houses of Congress is indispensable to secure the revenue which the pending bill is intended to yield. The emergency is an unusual one. The people, without regard to party affiliations, are asking for action. Business awaits our final decision. With this great question of adequate revenue to carry on the Government settled favorably by such an adjustment of duties as will restore to our own people what has been surrendered to others during the past four years, with restored confidence in the future, there is reason to believe that gradually and surely there will come back to us the great prosperity which we enjoyed in the decade prior to 1893, and which the greatest of living English statisticians so strikingly eulogized when he said in 1892 that "it would be impossible to find in history any parallel to the progress of the United States in the (then) last ten years."

Two Good, Long Words.

The following interesting statement appears in the report of the Jefferson Laboratory of President Eliot, of Harvard: "Prof. Jackson, with Mr. M. H. Itiner, finished the work upon parabromomethyltoluol, which was begun last year, and continued with Mr. H. A. Torrey the study of the derivatives of chloranil, obtaining results which throw some light upon the constitution of the oxide of dibenzoylchloromethoxyquinone."—New York Tribune.

New York's Private Fish Pond.

There is probably no more interesting sight in New York city than the new Aquarium. It is hard to imagine how there can be any sight more interesting than the spectacle of an intelligent city spending \$40,000 a week for years at a time, and that fungus and other marine growth never attaches to them.

A Great Truth.

Wallace—Why is it you always get on the wrong side of the dock for years?

Hargreaves—It is so much easier to do—Cincinnati Enquirer.

THE QUESTION OF SHEATHING.

Mysterious Influences in the Navy Department Against It.

To the Editor of The Times: About four months ago the United States government (Cassie returned from the South Atlantic station, bringing the men of the squadron whose term of service was about to expire. The day to return had been named when it was discovered that the bottom of the vessel was badly pitted and it was placed in the drydock at the Norfolk navy yard. Twenty-eight steel plates were removed and new ones substituted, consuming six weeks' time and the compensation of its personnel from commanding officer to apprentice, a great loss and expense to the Government. The incident suggests that very many of the steel vessels of all the great nations, except America, have their bottoms sheathed with wood and copper to prevent pitting and marine growth, at a saving of many thousands of dollars per annum, as well as the preservation of the lives of the vessels. Chief Naval Constructor Philip Hichborn, reputed the best naval constructor in the world, has exercised his influence from the building of the Chicago, Atlanta and Boston, the first vessels of the new Navy, to have the bottoms of vessels sheathed with copper, instead of wood, as stated in the interest of so-called waterproof and preservative paints, which have proved, and will continue to prove, entirely inadequate as preservers.

In volume two of "Transactions of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers," page 180, Commodore W. T. Sampson, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, says: "I have seen the copper bottom of a ship more completely covered with marine growth than any steel ship I ever saw in dock." "I have seen the copper bottom of a ship more completely covered with marine growth than any steel ship I ever saw in dock." "I have seen the copper bottom of a ship more completely covered with marine growth than any steel ship I ever saw in dock."

There is a powerful influence in the Navy, said to be located by some in the Bureau of Ordnance, that has defeated the plans of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, as stated in the interest of so-called waterproof and preservative paints, which have proved, and will continue to prove, entirely inadequate as preservers.

It was a good-sized male panther, but in poor condition, being almost famished. The snarl of the fresh frisk is doubtless what tempted the attack, as this is the first time such a thing has happened in this section, especially with houses so near. The hide will be stuffed and taken to Beaver Falls, to adorn Mr. Quay's library.

ACCOUNTS SAID TO BE SHORT.

Reason for the Disappearance of a Building and Loan Treasurer.

Chicago, March 22.—President Julius Brieske, of the Christopher Columbus Building and Loan Association, said last night that David J. Sachel, treasurer of the concern, had left Chicago, and that his accounts were being investigated by a committee of the stockholders. President Brieske declared there was evidence to believe that the missing official would be called on to explain why from \$40,000 to \$60,000 of the association's funds was not in sight.

Mr. Sachel appeared in court last night on Tuesday last. His wife said last night that he had gone into the country to raise some money. As soon as his absence was noticed the stockholders appointed a committee of ten to look over his books. This committee, according to the president, is unable to locate from \$40,000 to \$60,000 of the association's investment of \$100,000. The president said Attorney Koch would apply to the courts today for a receiver to take charge of the affairs of the association.

The Christopher Columbus Building and Loan Association has a membership of 600 or 700 persons, nearly all of whom are poor people, who have been investing their savings in the association.